Unit in particular;

(b) whether the Copper has been imported during the last four years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether the present economic policy and its excise and custom tariff region had any adverse effect on Hindustan Copper Units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government is contemplating to improve the condition?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of Rs. 50 crores. The total number of employees on the roll of the Company as on 31.3.1997 was 19884 including 9786 employees at ICC, Ghatshilla.

In terms of the MOU for 1997-98 signed by the Company with the Ministry of Mines, HCL has fixed a target to produce 45,000 tonnes of refined copper (cathode) and 42,000 tonnes of wire rod during 1997-98. The break up of cathode is as follows:-

Indian Copper Complex	-	16,000 tonnes
Khetri Copper Complex	-	29,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The import of copper cathode made by Hindustan Copper Limited for conversion in its wire-rod plant at Taloja during the last four financial year is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1993-94	16476.730
1994-95	16480.037
1995-96	29886.618
1996-97	31563.928

(d) and (e) On account of decanalisation of copper, abolition of administered pricing system and reduction in customs duty, HCL is facing serious competition from imported copper which has seriously affected the profitability of Hindustan Copper Limited.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

[Translation]

Recommendation for Change the Name of ITDC

5228. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior working group of the Planning Commission has recommended to change the name of India Tourism Development Corporation as National Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Report of the Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Plan has made a recommendation to structure the India Tourism Development Corporation as a National Tourism Development Corporation which would have 50 percent joint venture interest in all the State Tourism Development Corporation. There is, however, no proposal with the Government at present to implement the recommendation.

[English]

Flying Clubs

5229. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Flying Clubs in India State-wise with the number of microlight aircraft in their possession;

(b) whether an application from Aerosports Club of Assam for getting clearance for flying of microlight aircrafts is pending in his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting clearance and time by which it will be granted;

(d) whether application made by "Agni Aerosports" of Bangalore was cleared in the same year;

(e) whether it is also a fact that six microlight aircrafts were allotted to Aerosports Club of Assam by the Aeroclub of India; and

(f) if so, the present status of those aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Aero Sports Club of Assam has applied to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA) for issue of a 'Permit to Fly' Microlight aircraft. The Dte. GCA is awaiting clearances from security agencies.

(d) Yes, Sir. The 'Permit to Fly' for microlight aircraft was issued to M/s. Agni Aerosports, Bangalore in 1995.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Dte. GCA has issued instructions to its Guwahati Office to grant requisite permission for these microlight aircraft to be test flown and accorded necessary facilities. The 'Permit to Fly' shall be issued after the receipt of security clearances.

Statement

Number of Flying Clubs/Organisations possessing Microlight Aircraft

Organisations	No. of Microlight Aircraft	
	Owned	Given by Aero Club of India
P. Vasavi Reddy & Syed Mohammed Ibrahim Jamsheed, Secunderabed, Andhra Pradesh	1	-
Hyderabad batteries Ltd, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	1	-
Aero Sports Club of Assam, Guwahati, Assam	-	6
Agni Aero Sports Adventure Academy Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka	1	10
Raj Hamsa Ultralights (P) Ltd, Mysore, Karnataka	3	-
Thomas Meenathathil Thomas, Bangalore, Karnataka	1	-
Shri Chithira Aero Adventure Club, Trivandrum, Kerala.	-	3
Indian Hang Gliding Association, Pune, Maharashtra	1	-
Light Flyers Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra	1	-
T.R. Chaudhary, Mumbai, Maharashtra	2	-
Vijaypat Singhania, Mumbai, Maharashtra	1	-
Hindustan Marketing & Adventuring Co. (P) Ltd, New Delhi	1	-
Micro Light Flyers Club, New Delhi	1	-
Coimbatore Training Aviation Academy, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (Damaged during transit from Delhi)	-	3
Joel Koechlin, The Nilgiris Hang Gliding Centre, Ootacamand, Tamil Nadu	1	-
Narayansamy Soundarajan, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu	1	-

Amendment in Indian Telegraph Act

5230. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the century old Indian Telegraph Act 1885, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For amendment of Indian Telegraph Act. Govt. had constituted a committee which has submitted its report. One of its recommendations envisaged setting up of a separate Telecom Regulatory Authority body. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has since been constituted under Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997 (24 of 1997).